

PRICE \$21 PER MONTH

E. W. RUTTER,
 Manager, Hongkong.
 Hongkong, 15th June, 1887. [1182]

FONG'S PHOTOGRAPHER
 Has just added to his COLLECTION
 of VIEWS some NEW SCENES and Photos
 of many VIEWS, copies of which are obtainable
 in his Studio at Messrs. Leong & Woon's.
 IVORY MINIATURES of Superior Quality
 and of Excellent and High Finish. PERMANENT
 ENLARGEMENTS of PHOTOS and VIEWS and
 reproductions of the same on Paper, Canvas, or
 Opal.

INSTANTANEOUS VIEWS, GROUNDS and POR-
 TRAITS are taken in any state of the weather,
 and all Permanent Processes, are executed on
 Moderate Terms.

STUDIO, ICE HOUSE LANE. (1183)

EXTRACT.

QUEER STORY.

THE GREAT INDIAN REMEDY.

There is nothing in life easier than to edit a newspaper. Little knowledge of the world, a nice critical perception, a pen equal to any emergency—these are all the indispensable qualifications. So, at least, think many people who dabble in literature; and so thought Dr. Julius Fripp, when, after contributing for many years to one periodical and another, he invested all his available funds in the purchase of the *Speculator* newspaper, and installed himself in the editor's chair.

Strange as the result did not altogether correspond with Dr. Fripp's expectations, the *Speculator* had been originally started as an organ of advanced thought, and it had all but speculated itself out of existence. The Doctor (Fripp) had picked up a degree early in life during a sojourn in Germany, and always made a point of wearing it; and he accordingly started the *Speculator* as a new basis as a financial journal and guide for investors. He introduced into it at the same time many novel and striking journalistic ideas, which might have been expected to make the fortune of any newspaper. The public, however, took no better to the new *Speculator* than to the old. The advertisements kept the paper afloat for a time, but when the long advertisements were over, the paper was left with nobody to read, but the circulation fell lower and lower, until at last Dr. Fripp perceived that, unless vitality could be restored somehow, his editorial days were numbered. In this extremity, only one hope suggested itself to him, and that was fresh blood, coupled with fresh funds. Actuated by this idea, the doctor one day made it known through the columns of the *Times* that an admirable opportunity occurred for a gentleman with from £500 to £1,000 to assist in developing an old-established newspaper, certain to yield a lucrative return.

The answers were more numerous than satisfactory. The writers offered experience, ability, and even genius, some gratis, some on highly exorbitant terms; but, capital, somehow, held aloof. After going through all his answers, the Doctor could not see one which looked at all like business, and that was a laconic epistle which simply requested an interview for the purpose of discussing business.

At no time in seeing this correspondent, as Fripp wrote and made the desired appointment.

The hour came and the man. To Dr. Fripp's surprise the card which was handed in bore a name which was quite familiar to him, though he had never yet met the owner. It was the name of Mr. Silas P. Walker, a citizen of the United States, and known to Dr. Fripp as the principal, if not the sole, proprietor of "Waltham, the Great Indian Remedy." This famous medicine had lately been introduced to the notice of the British public by every means known to the art of the advertiser; and the *Speculator*, among other newspapers, had assisted in making its virtues known to the world. To tell the truth, the Doctor had been for some time past doing his best to get in an amount of some £700 odd due to him for advertisements of the Great Indian Remedy. This made him all the more surprised to see his visitor.

"I had better tell you at once, Mr. Walker," he said, "that unless you are prepared to advance or find the amount named in my advertisement, our interview will be a waste of time."

"Don't be in too much of a hurry, Mr. Fripp," replied the American, coolly. "Now suppose I was to tell you that I have got an idea which—"

"Oh, an idea!" replied the Editor, with pardonable impatience, for he felt that he had a much larger stock of the article on hand than he could find any market for. "I ask for cash, and every fool in London offers me ideas."

"May be," responded Mr. Walker, with no trace of annoyance. "But I feel too foolish to be offering you ideas like mine."

"Perhaps not. But, for the present, please understand that I consider myself competent to conduct my own paper in my own way."

"Anyhow," said Mr. Walker, blandly, "you have got to give me a loan, I reckon, and want a show-off. Now, I have been looking into this paper of yours, and I see you have been trying a good many times. But there is one thing I have not yet tried, and that is a libel case."

"And don't want to?" retorted the editor.

"Even if I did, it would require capital, and that I haven't got."

"Require capital? Why, I tell you, sir, a libel action is capital. Just look here, Mr. Fripp. I can show you how to run a paper suitably. I will give you the thousand pounds you are asking for, and more than that, and won't cost you a penny. But it's to be for my benefit as much as yours. Therefore, you need not hear any more unless you like. Only say the word, and I take my scheme round to old Sir Levy."

Now Mr. Solomon Levy, to whom Mr. Walker referred, was the owner of the flourishing financial journal, *Monmouth*, and the two editors there existed, as the American well knew, an intimate feud. Mr. Walker's last threat had, therefore, all the effect which that gentleman expected. Fripp suddenly remembered that politeness costs nothing, and requested his visitor to explain his plan more fully.

"That is soon said," said Mr. Walker. "The thing is simplicity itself. All you have to do is to libel me in the *Speculator*."

"Libel you?" exclaimed the astonished editor.

"Libel the Great Indian Remedy—it's the same thing. I bring my action against you. For obvious reasons, each of us conducts his own case, and if we don't puff ourselves up, the *Speculator* and the *Remedy* on a scale never before attempted, call me—"

"What about costs?" asked Fripp, impressed in spite of himself by the idea.

"Costs won't come to much. No counsel's fees, you observe. As for the rest, if you win, you are at right. If you don't I give you beforehand any security you like for the amount of your costs."

"And suppose you recover damages?"

"I shan't go for heavy damages—only want to vindicate my character and clear the reputation of the *Remedy*. But, in case they give me a verdict, we can have no agreement before we begin, which will cover costs and damages too, if you like, so as to make you safe."

Fripp considered. He was fully alive to the value of a sensational libel case, and Mr. Walker's plan seemed to offer all this advantage, with a minimum of risk and cost. Besides this, he was growing desperate under the failure of his venture, and felt that he could afford to risk a little in bringing the *Speculator* before the public. He therefore concurred to discuss the proposal at some length, and before they parted the two gentlemen had arrived at a pretty clear understanding.

Within a few weeks of the foregoing conversation, the attention of every one in the Kingdom who was likely to have money to invest—especially country clergymen and ladies of independent means—was directed to the prospectus of the *Waltham Company, Limited*. The object of this enterprise was to purchase from Messrs. Walker & Gutteswindel, of Chicago and London, and all their rights in the Great Indian Remedy.

The prospectus was eloquent on the world-famous virtue of the *Remedy*, the secret of which, it appeared, had been acquired by Herr Gutteswindel, from the Medicine Men of the Great Chocktaw Tribe. Among the directors were several Peers, whose names were household words in the City, together with officers of high rank in the Army and Navy equally known to fame. Altogether the prospectus was a highly-attractional document, and was received with various degrees of interest by those portions of the press which interest themselves in such matters.

There was one journal, however, which selected the *Waltham Company* for unmeasured denunciation, and that journal was the *Speculator*. In an article after article, and in the promotion of the Company to be a fraud, and Silas P. Walker no better than a swindler. The Great Indian Remedy, he asserted, was a filthy concoction likely to kill quite as many people as it cured; the testimonials were forged; the miraculous cures were invented by Silas P. Walker. As for the great Gutteswindel and his adventures among the Chocktaws, the doctor held them up to derision, and even went so far as to doubt whether the famous traveller had ever existed in the flesh. All this was very funny, and Fripp was highly gratified at the success of his scheme when he found that the circulation of the *Speculator* was looking up. In drawing public attention to their dispute, he was, in fact, very successful. The public galleries were pretty full; the seats allotted to witnesses were packed; and the trial was, in fact, a grand success.

The trial was going on in this way for two or three days, or more, when Mr. Solomon Levy, the proprietor of *Monmouth*, hurried into the room of Mr. Hamilton Twigg, his agent, and said to him, "I have just returned from the trial, and I am a very good deal puzzled. I say, Twigg, you have let that beggar, Fripp, steal a march on us this time, and now we are in a bad way."

"Not so sure about that," replied Twigg, coolly.

"Anyhow, here he is, advertising himself day after day as the champion of financial integrity, and all the world listening. It'll be worth thousands to him."

"Think so?"

"Think so! Have you seen the evidence Walker called yesterday about the circulation of the *Speculator*? Here's a chap from the office who swears that they are doing thirty thousand per week, and then he swears that he knows that they are doing only ten thousand per week, and that he knows that they are doing only five thousand per week, and that he knows that they are doing only two thousand per week, and that he knows that they are doing only one thousand per week, and that he knows that they are doing only five hundred per week, and that he knows that they are doing only two hundred per week, and that he knows that they are doing only one hundred per week, and that he knows that they are doing only fifty per week, and that he knows that they are doing only twenty-five per week, and that he knows that they are doing only twelve per week, and that he knows that they are doing only six per week, and that he knows that they are doing only three per week, and that he knows that they are doing only one per week, and that he knows that they are doing only half a per week, and that he knows 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